

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GSA-01 OEP-01 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00

OMB-01 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 070979

R 302130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9760

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 2557

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, BL

SUBJECT: TIN SALES - PRESS REACTION

1. PRESENCIA OF APRIL 28, CARRIED A LEAD STORY STATING THAT THE GSA PLANS TO SELL 3,000 TONS OF TIN BEFORE JUNE 30 AND MORE AFTER. THE STORY WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A LOCAL MINERALS EXPERT WHO SAID HE OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION FROM "TRADE JOURNALS". PRESENCIA NOTED THE U. S. REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENT TO THE ITC STATING THAT SALES WOULD BE MADE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRODUCE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DAMAGE TO PRODUCING NATIONS. PRESENCIA WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE U. S. WILL SELL MINERALS WHEN A PROGRAM OF CONTROLS HAS BEEN INSTITUTED BY THE ITC. THE PRESENCIA ARTICLE STATED THAT THE U. S. HAS 122 MILLION POUNDS OF TUNGSTEN OF WHICH IT WOULD SELL 118 MILLION POUNDS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY AND ALSO 45.9 THOUSAND TONS OF ANTIMONY, THE SALE OF WHICH WOULD ALSO INURE THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY.

2. EL DIARIO CARRIED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH STATED THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA IS MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH  
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ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON AND LONDON WHO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DEFEND BOLIVIAN INTERESTS. THE COMMUNIQUE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD UNTIL APRIL 30 TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHEN IT WOULD CONSULT. FINALLY THE COMMUNIQUE WARNED THAT NOTHING DEFINITIVE HAS BEEN DECIDED AND SINCE THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSULT WITH BOLIVIA, THE INTEREST OF BOLIVIA WILL BE DEFENDED PATRIOTICALLY AND WITH RESPONSIBILITY.

3. EL DIARIO ALSO PUBLISHED A SIGNED EDITORIAL BY GUILLERMO ZAVALA W. TITLED " NIXON DEFRAUDS BANZER". ZAVALA STATED THAT THE U. S. DID NOT SELL TIN UNDER TORRES BECAUSE IT WAS AFRAID OF " RADICALIZING THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT". HE CLAIMED THAT IT IS WILLING TO SELL NOW BECAUSE OF THE SERVILE ATTITUDE OF SOME OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOWARD THE U. S. ZAVALA STATED THAT THE PENTAGON AND THE CIA BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE THEY TRAINED THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY AND GAVE IN EQUIPMENT IT REMAINS IN THEIR SERVICE. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BOLIVIA CANNOT DENY THAT THE U. S. CAN DISPOSE OF RESERVES, BOLIVIA CAN REJECT THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTROL WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT HAS IN BOLIVIA. ZAVALA CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HOPED THAT NIXON' S REELECTION WOULD INCREASE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE U. S.; BUT AFTER FIVE MONTHS NIXON DEFRAUDED BANZER BY ANNOUNCING TIN SALES. SIRACUSA

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**To:** ARA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
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